

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A webbing retractor comprising:

a rotating member by which, due to the rotating member being rotated in a take-up direction, a webbing is taken-up, and by which, due to the rotating member being rotated in a pull-out direction, the webbing is pulled-out;

a pretensioner mechanism which, by being operated, rotates the rotating member in the take-up direction; and

an engaging member which, ~~at a time of~~ due to operation of the pretensioner mechanism, is changed from a non-engageable state in which the engaging member cannot engage with the rotating member to an engageable state in which the engaging member does not engage with the rotating member ~~to which rotational force in the take-up direction is applied~~ and which engages with the rotating member ~~to only after operation of the pretensioner mechanism and after which~~ rotational force in the pull-out direction is applied, whereupon the engaging member ~~impeding~~ immediately impedes rotation of the rotating member by engaging with the rotating member.

Claims 2-6 (Cancelled)

7. (Currently Amended) A webbing retractor comprising:

a webbing applied to a vehicle occupant;

a pretensioner mechanism, the webbing being taken-up due to the pretensioner mechanism being operated; and

a maintaining component for~~[[,]]~~ ~~after conclusion of operation of the pretensioner mechanism,~~ maintaining a load at a constant level, which is applied from the webbing to the vehicle occupant~~[[,]]~~ ~~at the load at a time of~~ after the conclusion of operation of the pretensioner mechanism, including a single torsion bar and an engaging member that moves due to operation of the pretensioner mechanism.

8. (Currently Amended) The webbing retractor of claim 7, further comprising a rotating member by which, due to the rotating member being rotated in a take-up direction, the webbing is taken-up, and by which, due to the rotating member being rotated in a pull-out direction, the

webbing is pulled-out, the rotating member being rotated in the take-up direction due to the pretensioner mechanism being operated,

wherein the ~~maintaining component has an~~ engaging member ~~which~~, at a time of operation of the pretensioner mechanism, is changed from a non-engageable state in which the engaging member cannot engage with the rotating member to an engageable state in which the engaging member does not engage with the rotating member to which rotational force in the take-up direction is applied and engages with the rotating member to which rotational force in the pull-out direction is applied, the engaging member impeding rotation of the rotating member by engaging with the rotating member.

9. (Currently Amended) The webbing retractor of claim 8, further comprising:

an urging component for urging the engaging member toward the engageable state; and

a ~~moving~~ stopper member which, by engaging with the engaging member, sets the engaging member in the non-engageable state, and, due to the moving member being moved due to operation of the pretensioner mechanism, engagement of the ~~moving~~ stopper member with the engaging member is released and the engaging member is changed to the engageable state by the urging component.

10. (Currently Amended) The webbing retractor of claim 8, further comprising a ~~moving~~/urging stopper member which, by being moved due to operation of the pretensioner mechanism, ~~urges the engaging member and~~ changes the engaging member from the non-engageable state to the engageable state.

11. (Previously Presented) The webbing retractor of claim 8, wherein the engageable state of the engaging member is maintained after operation of the pretensioner mechanism.

12. (Previously Presented) The webbing retractor of claim 8, further comprising a take-up shaft on which the webbing is taken-up, and at one side of the take-up shaft, the pretensioner mechanism applies rotational force to the rotating member and the engaging member engages the rotating member.

13. (Currently Amended) A webbing retracting method comprising:

taking-up a webbing by operating a pretensioner mechanism; and

at a time of operation of the pretensioner mechanism, changing an engaging member from a state in which pulling-out of the webbing cannot be impeded to a state in which taking-up of the webbing is permitted and from a state in which taking-up of the webbing is permitted to a state in which pulling-out of the webbing is impeded, wherein the engaging member impedes pulling-out of the webbing only after operation of the pretensioner mechanism and after rotational force in a webbing pull-out direction is applied.

14. (Original) The webbing retracting method of claim 13, further comprising:

rotating a rotating member in a take-up direction by operating the pretensioner mechanism, the webbing being taken-up due to the rotating member being rotated in the take-up direction and the webbing being pulled-out due to the rotating member being rotated in a pull-out direction; and

at the time of operation of the pretensioner mechanism, changing the engaging member from a non-engageable state, in which the engaging member cannot engage with the rotating member, to an engageable state, in which the engaging member does not engage with the rotating member to which rotational force in the take-up direction is applied and engages with the rotating member to which rotational force in the pull-out direction is applied and impedes rotation of the rotating member.

15. (Original) The webbing retracting method of claim 14, further comprising:

setting the engaging member in the non-engageable state, by causing a moving member to engage with the engaging member; and

by moving the moving member by operation of the pretensioner mechanism, canceling engagement of the moving member with the engaging member, and changing the engaging member to the engageable state by an urging component which urges the engaging member toward the engageable state.

16. (Currently Amended) The webbing retracting method of claim 14, further comprising:

~~a moving/urging member urging the engaging member and~~ changing the engaging member from the non-engageable state to the engageable state[,] by moving ~~the moving/urging a stopper~~ member by operation of the pretensioner mechanism.

17. (Previously Presented) The webbing retracting method of claim 14, further comprising:

maintaining the engageable state of the engaging member, after operation of the pretensioner mechanism.

18. (Previously Presented) The webbing retracting method of claim 14, further comprising:

at one side of a take-up shaft on which the webbing is taken-up, the pretensioner mechanism applying rotational force to the rotating member and causing the engaging member to engage with the rotating member.

19. (Previously Presented) The webbing retracting method of claim 13, further comprising:

after conclusion of operation of the pretensioner mechanism, maintaining a load, which is applied from the webbing to a vehicle occupant to which the webbing is applied, at the load at a time of the conclusion of operation of the pretensioner mechanism.

Claim 20 (Cancelled)

21. (Currently Amended) A webbing retractor comprising:

a rotating member by which, due to the rotating member being rotated in a take-up direction, a webbing is taken-up, and by which, due to the rotating member being rotated in a pull-out direction, the webbing is pulled-out;

a lock member which, at a time when it is sensed that a pull-out acceleration of the webbing has become greater than or equal to a predetermined acceleration, or at a time of rapid deceleration of a vehicle, ~~or the like~~, impedes rotation of the rotating member in the pull-out direction;

a pretensioner mechanism which, by being operated, rotates the rotating member in the take-up direction; and

an engaging member that is separate from the lock member which, at after a time of operation of the pretensioner mechanism, is changed from a non-engageable state in which the engaging member cannot engage with the rotating member to an engageable state in which the engaging member does not engage with the rotating member to which rotational force in the take-up direction is applied and engages with the rotating member to which rotational force in the pull-out direction is applied, the engaging member impeding rotation of the rotating member by engaging with the rotating member.

22. (Currently Amended) The webbing retractor of claim 1, further comprising:

an urging component for urging the engaging member toward the engageable state; and
a moving stopper member which, by engaging with the engaging member, sets the engaging member in the non-engageable state, and, due to the moving stopper member being moved due to operation of the pretensioner mechanism, engagement of the moving stopper member with the engaging member is released and the engaging member is changed to the engageable state by the urging component.

23. (Currently Amended) The webbing retractor of claim 1, further comprising a moving/urging stopper member which, by being moved due to operation of the pretensioner mechanism, urges the engaging member and changes the engaging member from the non-engageable state to the engageable state.

24. (Previously Presented) The webbing retractor of claim 1, wherein the engageable state of the engaging member is maintained after operation of the pretensioner mechanism.

25. (Currently Amended) The webbing retractor of claim 24, further comprising a restricting member which, by being moved due to operation of the pretensioner mechanism, restricts movement of the moving/urging member engaging member and the engageable state of the engaging member is maintained.

26. (Previously Presented) The webbing retractor of claim 1, further comprising a take-up shaft on which the webbing is taken-up, and at one side of the take-up shaft, the pretensioner

mechanism applies rotational force to the rotating member and the engaging member engages the rotating member.

27. (Previously Presented) A vehicle comprising the webbing retractor of claim 1.

28. (New) A webbing retractor comprising:

a rotating member directly connected to a webbing spool by which, due to being rotated in a take-up direction, a webbing is taken-up, and by which, due to the rotating member being rotated in a pull-out direction, the webbing is pulled-out;

a lock member which, at a time when it is sensed that a pull-out acceleration of the webbing has become greater than or equal to a predetermined acceleration, or at a time of rapid deceleration of a vehicle impedes rotation of the rotating member in the pull-out direction;

a pretensioner mechanism which, by being operated, rotates the rotating member in the take-up direction;

a force limiter including a single torsion bar for maintaining a load which is applied from the webbing to the vehicle occupant at a constant level, and

an engaging member that is separate from the lock member which, due to operation of the pretensioner mechanism, is changed from a non-engageable state in which the engaging member cannot engage with the rotating member to an engageable state in which the engaging member can engage but does not engage with the rotating member until a rotational force in the take-up direction is applied to the rotating member and the single torsion bar of the force limiter, whereupon said engaging member immediately engages with and impedes the rotating member from rotating.